HELLO, KITTY.
READY FOR ROUND TWO?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I AM.
IT'S BEEN A REAL BITCH OF A DAY, SISTER, AND I COULD REALLY USE SOME RECREATIONAL VIOLENCE.
I'M SO HAPPY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT. THE KILL'S NO FUN WITHOUT A STRUGGLE.
SAYS THE MOUSE TO THE CAT.

KRAK-KA-POW!
ZZZTTKK!
MY EYES! GOD...MY EYES!
UUMMPPHHH!
ZZZZZZZZZZZZ!

LLLLLLLL!
KA-WHOOM!
AIIIEEEE!
AHHH!
CRUNCH!
AHHHHH--

--AAHHHH!
OOOMPH!
WHUMP!
FACE IT. YOU'RE JUST NOT AS SCARY AS YOU THINK YOU ARE.
KRUNCH!

POWER
PART 4

MEANWHILE IN WAKANDA...
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, N'DEGA, THAT THE PRINCESS-REGENT GAVE A POWERFUL SPEECH. SHE ADDRESSED THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND LAID OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S STEP-BY-STEP PLAN TO DEAL WITH IT.
YES, IT WAS VERY WELL WRITTEN. BUT CLEVER WORDS ARE NOT WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS RIGHT NOW. THEY NEED LEADERSHIP. REAL LEADERSHIP...
WVOX LIVE
...THAT'S NOT PHONED IN.
WVOX LIVE
DOES IT REALLY MATTER IF PRINCESS-REGENT SHURI WAS PHYSICALLY HERE TO DELIVER HER SPEECH? THE CONTENT OF HER SPEECH IS WHAT MATTERS.
WVOX LIVE
BUNGLE IN THE JUNGLE
OH, REALLY? THE WORLD PRESS ISN'T COMMENTING ON HER REMARKS, M'TOKA. THEY'RE FRYING HER FOR WHAT THEY'RE CALLING "STUNT POLITICS."
AND AS A RESULT WAKANDA HAS GONE FROM GLOBAL POWER TO PUNCH LINE.
WVOX LIVE
CROP BLIGHT STAGGERS WAKANDA
THE WORLD NEWS SERVICES ARE BEHIND US, N'DEGA, MAKE NO MISTAKE. PRINCESS ORORO HAS BEEN SENT TO DEAL WITH THE FARMERS' PROBLEMS. SHE'LL SET THINGS RIGHT.
WVOX LIVE

YES. THE WEATHER WITCH IS COMING TO THE RESCUE.
THE QUESTION IS, WAS SHE ACTUALLY SENT BY THE PRINCESS-REGENT? OR IS THIS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SCRAMBLE TACTICS BY WHOEVER IS LEFT AT THE PALACE HOLDING THE BAG?
ARE YOU WATCHING THE NEWS FEEDS?
OF COURSE.
THEY'RE FALLING APART.
EVERYTHING HAS GONE LIKE CLOCKWORK.
BY THE TIME WE'RE READY TO MOVE, THE ROYALS WILL HAVE LOST THEIR HOLD ON THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.
EXCELLENT. TIME TO GO TO THE NEXT PHASE...
BROKER, THE MATCH IS LIT, WAKANDA IS READY TO BURN.
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE NEWS. YOU'VE TAKEN STORM AND T'CHALLA OUT OF ACTION. BRAVO. ONLY ONE PLAYER LEFT ON THE BOARD.
NO. I THINK WE HAVE MANAGED A CLEAN SWEEP.

MAJESTY...THIS IS WHAT WE'RE SEEING ALL ACROSS WAKANDA.
PHYTOPHTHORA INFESTANS HAS DEVASTATED ALMOST THIRTY PERCENT OF THE POTATO CROP AND SIXTEEN PERCENT OF THE HYBRID HUCKLEBERRIES. LEAF PETIOLE AND STEM BLIGHT DISEASE HAVE VIRTUALLY WIPED OUT THE SWEET POTATO HARVEST FOR THIS SEASON. AND WE MAY LOSE THE ENTIRE CORN CROP TO TURCICUM.
THESE ARE BLIGHTS NEVER BEFORE SEEN ON THE CONTINENT. WE'VE USED EVERY SPECIFIC AND BROAD SPECTRUM FUNGICIDE WE HAVE...WE'VE CONSULTED AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS IN FIFTY NATIONS. IT'S MADNESS.
IT'S UNNATURAL.
WE SHOULD BE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HARVEST. THIS SHOULD BE A TIME OF ABUNDANCE AND CELEBRATION. INSTEAD, EVERY DAY HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES ARE APPLYING FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE.
SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE BEFORE WAKANDA BECOMES A BLIGHTED DESERT.
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN BUSY WITH THE PRINCESS REGENT AWAY AND PRINCE T'CHALLA STILL RECOVERING. I DIDN'T KNOW WHO ELSE TO CALL...
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, DR. DERAJA. THESE ARE DARK TIMES AND ENEMIES COME IN ALL FORMS. AS DO THE RESOURCES UPON WHICH WAKANDA MAY RELY.
KRA-KOOM
MAY THE PANTHER GOD BLESS YOU, MAJESTY!
BUT IT IS A START. A WONDERFUL START...
THIS IS JUST A START, DOCTOR. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF FIELDS LIKE THIS. IT'S GOING TO TAKE WEEKS.
YES. A WONDERFUL START.

MAJESTY, I LOST MY VIDEO-FEED AND I'M ONLY READING TWO LIFE SIGNALS. WHAT HAPPENED?
THE CYBERNAUTS ARE DEAD, FLEA. SOMEONE MUST HAVE REMOTE-ACTIVATED THEIR INFERNO FAILSAFES.
SIGNAL REACQUIRED. WHAT A MESS! WERE YOU ABLE TO PLACE ANY OF THE TELEMETRIC UPLINKS ON THEM BEFORE THEY FLAMED OUT?
YES. N'IIX HAS CONFIRMED THE UPLINK.
SWEET.
PATCH ME THROUGH TO ZAKAR.
I HOPE HE AND M'YRA HAD MORE LUCK WITH THEIR LEAD IN PHILADELPHIA.
NO, MAJESTY... IT'S A TOTAL WASH. HE WAS READY FOR US. HE MUST HAVE HAD TWENTY POUNDS OF SEMTEX STRAPPED TO HIM. WE BARELY GOT OUT IN TIME.
DID HE SAY ANYTHING AT ALL?
SOME THINGS ABOUT YOU I WOULDN'T REPEAT UNDER TORTURE. BUT JUST AS HE TRIGGERED THE BOMB, HE YELLED A SINGLE WORD.
DESTURI?
YES. HOW DID YOU--?
SAME THING HAPPENED HERE. INSULTS, A BOMB, AND THAT WORD: DESTURI.
IT'S SWAHILI, I THINK...
YES. IT MEANS "CUSTOM" OR "TRADITION". THOUGH...I'VE HEARD IT USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES...
SUCH AS?
IT WAS SOMETHING I HEARD ABOUT AFTER I...UM... HAD TO LEAVE THE DORA MILAJE.

"AFTER I WAS INJURED AND DISMISSED, I KNOCKED AROUND THE CONTINENT FOR A WHILE. DID SOME MERCENARY WORK.
"EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I'D BE APPROACHED BECAUSE OF MY SKILLS AND TRAINING. SOMETIMES BECAUSE OF MY CONNECTIONS TO THE WAKANDAN ROYAL FAMILY...
"IF YOU TRAVEL IN CERTAIN CIRCLES YOU TEND TO MEET THE WRONG KIND OF PEOPLE. EXTREME TYPES, IF YOU TAKE MY MEANING.
"FOR YEARS, THERE'S BEEN VERY QUIET DISSENSION IN CERTAIN QUARTERS. PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN RUN IN WAKANDA. WHO DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT KING T'CHALLA MARRIED A FOREIGN-BORN WOMAN. THAT DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT VIBRANIUM AND TECHNOLOGY BASED ON IT HAVE BEEN SOLD TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND TO VIGILANTE GROUPS LIKE THE AVENGERS AND S.H.I.E.L.D.
"THAT SEE ALL OF THIS AS PROOF THAT THE ROYAL FAMILY'S INTEREST AND LOYALTIES LAY BEYOND THE BORDERS OF WAKANDA."
THESE PEOPLE FEEL THAT WAKANDA HAS MOVED AWAY FROM ITS AGES-OLD CONNECTION TO TRADITION AND CUSTOMS.
SO "DESTURI" HAS BECOME A WATCHWORD FOR A MOVEMENT THAT WANTS TO RETURN TO OLDER TRADITIONS.
IT'S DISHEARTENING TO KNOW THAT AN ENLIGHTENED PEOPLE SUCH AS OUR OWN CAN SUCCUMB TO PARANOIA SO THOROUGHLY THAT XENOPHOBIA BECOMES THEIR IDEOLOGY.
MAJESTY, FORGIVE MY INSOLENCE, BUT THERE IS MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
I KNOW, SISTER. I KNOW.
THERE ALWAYS IS.

WHAT LANGUAGE IS THAT? IT'S NOT AFRICAN.
THESE ARE INCANTATIONS AND PROTECTIVE SPELLS FROM A RACE THAT DIED OUT SO LONG AGO NO ONE REMEMBERS THEIR NAME.
THEN WHERE DID YOU LEARN THEM?
IN A DREAM.
I DON'T LIKE THIS. WE ARE WARRIORS, BELOVED. NOT TRICKSTERS.
IF THE WAR CHANGES, ANEKA, SO MUST THE WARRIOR.
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERNS, ANEKA, BUT PLEASE BE SILENT.
I ASKED FOR THIS. I'M READY FOR THIS.
BELOVED...THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS. IF THIS OLD FOOL'S SPELLS ARE OFF, EVEN BY A SINGLE LETTER...

YOU HAD BETTER HOPE SO, MAJESTY. BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO ASSEMBLE MY MOST TALENTED ACOLYTES.
YOU SAID TO GIVE NO QUARTER.
TO SHOW NO MERCY.
DOOM SHOWED ME THAT MERCY HAS NO PLACE IN THIS KIND OF WAR.
NOW...IF YOU WIZARDS ARE SO POWERFUL...
...KILL ME.
BELOVED.
NO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "UNNATURAL"?
I'VE BROUGHT RAIN TO EIGHTY FIELDS SO FAR, BUT SOMETHING IS BADLY WRONG HERE. THE RAINFALL SINKS INTO THE GROUND BUT THE ROOT SYSTEMS WON'T HOLD IT. THEY CONTINUE TO WITHER AS IF THEY'RE IN A DROUGHT. IT DOESN'T JUST GO AGAINST SCIENCE--
--IT GOES AGAINST NATURE.
WHAT DOES T'CHALLA SAY ABOUT IT? HE'S THE SCIENTIST OF THE FAMILY.
T'CHALLA HAS BARELY SAID TEN WORDS TO ME SINCE WE RETURNED FROM LIMBO.
ARE YOU TWO HAVING PROBLEMS?
I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT EVEN SURE THAT THIS IS ABOUT US.
SINCE HE'S RETURNED HE'S BECOME RECLUSIVE, DISTANT. NOT JUST TO ME, BUT TO EVERYONE. HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME EITHER IN THE GYM DOING ENDLESS REHAB, OR IN THE LIBRARY READING OLD BOOKS. OR WALKING IN THE JUNGLE.
AND HE STILL HASN'T SAID A WORD ABOUT WHO ATTACKED HIM?
HE'S SAID NOTHING. AT LEAST NOT TO ME.
HAS HE SAID ANYTHING AT ALL TO YOU?
YOUR TEA, WALTER.
AFTER ALL THE FUNERALS, HE TOOK ME ASIDE AND GAVE ME SOME ADVICE ON POLITICS. AND GAVE ME A LIST OF FRIENDS OF HIS I CAN CONTACT FOR ADVICE. BEYOND THAT, NOTHING. HE'S KEEPING ME AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS YOU.
T'CHALLA'S BECOME AS MUCH A STRANGER TO ME AS HE HAS TO YOU...

"...I DON'T THINK I KNOW WHO HE IS ANYMORE."
STOP THIS MADNESS--NOW! YOU'RE KILLING HIM!
HAVE YOU SO LITTLE FAITH, WOMAN?
IN MUSCLE AND BONE, YES...NOT IN THIS UNHOLY DARKNESS.
DARKNESS? WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF DARKNESS?
I'VE WALKED THROUGH NIGHTMARE LANDS THAT WOULD TEAR THE SANITY FROM YOU. I'VE SQUATTED IN DRIPPING CAVES IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH TO PALAVER WITH EYELESS TOAD-THINGS. I'VE SACRIFICED MY OWN BLOOD SO THAT I COULD LISTEN TO THE FAINTEST WHISPERS OF THE ELDER GODS.
AND WHY?
BECAUSE T'CHALLA IS MY KING-- NO MATTER WHO SITS ON THE THRONE OF WAKANDA. AND HE HAS NEED OF WHAT ONLY THE DARKNESS MAY OFFER.
TO SAVE HIM-- TO SAVE WAKANDA-- I HAVE EMBRACED DARKNESS. TO LEARN THE SECRETS HE NEEDS, I HAVE BECOME DARKNESS.

YOU CRACKED THE CODE ON THE HARD DRIVE?
YES, MAJESTY... BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE WHAT I FOUND.
HE ALWAYS SAYS THAT.
HE'S ALWAYS RIGHT.
DON'T ASK ME HOW THEY MANAGED IT, BUT THE BROKER, OR WHOEVER HE'S WORKING FOR, MANAGED TO PLANT A SPYCAM IN THE ROYAL QUINJET.
THE VIDEO FEED IS SPOTTY, HOWEVER, SO WE CAN ASSUME THAT THE ONBOARD JAMMING SYSTEM WAS INTERFERING WITH IT. THE AUDIO FEED IS ALMOST COMPLETELY UNINTELLIGIBLE.
THE DIGITAL IMAGES ARE INCONSISTENT, JUMBLED, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE SPYCAM WAS DESIGNED TO STORE IMAGES AND THEN TRANSMIT THEM IN MICROBURSTS RATHER THAN IN A STREAM. HARDER TO DETECT THAT WAY, ESPECIALLY IF THE FREQUENCY WAS MODULATED BETWEEN BURSTS.
THE TIME CODE VERIFIES THAT THIS FOOTAGE WAS TAKEN JUST SECONDS BEFORE THE SHIPBOARD SYSTEM WENT INTO PARTIAL SHUTDOWN. PROBABLY WHEN THE QUINJET WAS ATTACKED.
THE SHIP WAS ATTACKED AT 18:07:51.
THE SPYCAM MUST HAVE TRIED TO SEND ITS COLLECTED DATA BEFORE IT FAILED, AND SO THE DATA RECOVERED BY THE BROKER WAS FRAGMENTED AND OUT OF SEQUENTIAL ORDER. TYPICAL OF A FAILING MICROBURST TRANSMITTER.
HOWEVER, EACH FRAGMENT CONTAINS A PIECE OF THE TIMECODE. I WAS ABLE TO GO THROUGH EACH FRAGMENT AND RE-ASSEMBLE THEM IN THE CORRECT ORDER. THERE ARE BIG GAPS, BUT WE HAVE CLEAR IMAGES IN THE SECONDS LEADING UP TO THE AMBUSH.
THIS FRAGMENT ■ JUST SECONDS BEFORE THE ATTACK.
)SKZZT(SEE HIM UNDERNEATH THE ICE)SKZZT(
)SKZZT(FAST AS)SKZZT(QUINJET)SKZZT(
)SKZZT(A)SKZZT(

WHAT DID HE JUST SAY? I COULDN'T CATCH THE LAST PART.
I RAN IT THROUGH EVERY FILTER I HAVE. LISTEN CLOSELY, MAJESTY.
)SKZZT(DO YOU SEE HIM UNDERNEATH THE ICE)SKZZT(
)SKZZT(HE'S AS FAST AS)SKZZT(QUINJET.
)SKZZT(NAMOR)SKZZT(
BLOOD OF THE PANTHER GOD...

...I REVIEWED THE IMAGE FILES YOU SENT, SHURI. I ADMIT, THEY ARE DEEPLY TROUBLING.
I'M NOT SURE "TROUBLING" IS AN ADEQUATE WORD, DR. RICHARDS.
SINCE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THIS EARLIER, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT NAMOR, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO WANT TO TAKE MY CALLS.
PERHAPS HE'LL TAKE MINE. AS ONE HEAD OF STATE TO ANOTHER.
OKAY, SHE HAS TWO SHOCK-NETS, SIX VIALS OF DESERT SANDS, A COLLAPSIBLE SWORD, FIGHTING TRUNCHEONS AND A DOZEN HOLO-PODS. GIVE ME ANOTHER CANISTER OF SPIDER-BITES.
WHY? SHE HAS TWO ALREADY.
SHE LIKES THEM.
NAMOR MAY BE COLD AND RUTHLESS AT TIMES, SHURI, BUT HE PRIZES HONOR ABOVE ALL. HE AND T'CHALLA HAVE BEEN FRIENDS AND ALLIES FOR YEARS.
THAT'S FLEXIBLE VIBRANIUM MOBILE SHIELDING. BRAND NEW, NEVER BEEN PROPERLY FIELD-TESTED.
HOW MUCH FORCE CAN IT STOP?
IN THEORY? ANYTHING UP TO A CRUISE MISSILE.
THIS IS PRINCE NAMOR. THAT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH.
IT'S A NEW WORLD, AND I'M NOT SURE WE CAN PUT MUCH FAITH IN OLD ALLIANCES, DR. RICHARDS. GLOBAL POWER HAS SHIFTED TO NEW HANDS. PLENTY OF OLD ALLIANCES HAVE CRUMBLED.
LOOK AT COLONEL FURY AND S.H.I.E.L.D. LOOK AT TONY STARK.
HOLD IT IN PLACE. IT WILL MICROBOND TO THE UNSTABLE MOLECULES IN HER PANTHERSKIN. SEE? IT'LL BE MORE LIKE A SECOND SKIN THAN ARMOR.
GOOD... BECAUSE SHE'S GOING TO NEED AGILITY AS WELL AS STRENGTH FOR THIS.

PLEASE BEAR IN MIND WHAT I SAID, MAJESTY.
NOW, ABOUT THE WOMAN YOU FOUGHT... OHYAKU? HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING FROM HER? HAS SHE BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY THIS CONNECTION WITH NAMOR? OR GIVE YOU A LEAD TO WHERE TO FIND THE BROKER?
NO. SHE'S... UNABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AT THE MOMENT, I'M AFRAID. OUR LAST ENCOUNTER DIDN'T GO WELL FOR HER.
THEN YOU'RE FLYING INTO A HIGHLY DANGEROUS SITUATION WITHOUT ANY RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE. IS THAT WISE?
MAYBE NOT. BUT THINGS ARE IN MOTION AND I NEED TO FIND SOME ANSWERS BEFORE MORE HARM COMES TO MY COUNTRY. I HAVE AN ITCHY PLACE BETWEEN MY SHOULDER BLADES THAT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M IN SOMEBODY'S CROSSHAIRS.
CAN YOU AT LEAST DELAY IT UNTIL YOU CAN GET SOME BACKUP? STORM, PERHAPS?
STORM IS BUSY.
IF YOU CAN WAIT FOR A DAY--LET ME FINISH AN EXPERIMENT I HAVE RUNNING, THEN I COULD COME WITH YOU. I'M SURE BEN AND JOHNNY WOULD--
THANK YOU, BUT NO. I WANT TO SPEAK TO NAMOR AS A PEER. I DON'T WANT TO COME AT HIM WITH AN ARMY AT MY BACK. BESIDES...I'M JUST GOING THERE TO ASK HIM A FEW QUESTIONS.
AND WHAT IF HE REFUSES TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS?

COMICS PRESERVATION SOCIETY! F*** YEAH!
CPS